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619CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY France

SUBJECT Subsidy for Bidault from Sensational Women's Press

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1. A vigorous effort is being made to destroy Georges Bidault's standing in the eyes of strict thinkers and Catholics. He is being much reproached for having accepted aid from Cino del Duca, a magnate of the heart throb press. Duca offered to help out with the MRP newspaper in the Loire, which M. Bidault controls. Just at the right moment, Duca came across with 25 million francs. Bidault, in gratitude, gave him the Legion of Honor.
2. The "presse de coeur" has a circulation of about 5 million in France or roughly a quarter of the French press. Duca controls 3 million of this. He is a Jew, described as "stateless". Among his periodicals are "Boléro", "Nous Deux", "Intimité", "Festival", "Madrigal", "Astrologie", and "l'Intrepide" (the last a paper for children.) This press is much combatted by French prelates, who regard it as indecent and, at best, tending to coarsen its feminine readers.
3. Bidault's political principles make him the defender of religious literature. It is incongruous for him, on the sly, to take "tainted money" from a mere "paper merchant" of this sort.
4. A main reason for this anti-Bidault campaign was to undermine the effort which he was expected to make sooner or later (if not now, then in a subsequent election) to become President of the Republic.

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